

1.4.2 Provincial parks

All provincial governments have established parks within their boundaries. Some parks are wilderness areas set aside in order that some portions of the country might be retained in their natural state. Most of them, however, are smaller areas of exceptional scenic interest which are easily accessible and are equipped or slated for future development as recreational parks with camping and picnic facilities.

Newfoundland. Altogether, 3,109 sq miles of wilderness, reservation, park lands and public beaches are administered by provincial government agencies. Of this land, 2,785 sq miles are contained within two wilderness areas administered by the Wildlife Division of the Department of Tourism. The remaining 324 sq miles of development and reserved public park land are under the jurisdiction of the Provincial Parks Division of the Department of Tourism. Of that area, 74 sq miles are in 45 developed provincial parks, two sq miles in protected public beaches and 248 sq miles in 14 provincial park reserves. Operation of these parks is directed toward preservation of the natural environment and most of them are located in wilderness areas, developed only for picnicking and camping. Regulations prohibit hunting and other types of resource exploitation; sports fishing, however, is encouraged. There is a continuing upward trend in the number of park users, both in day-use and overnight areas.

Prince Edward Island. There are 39 areas under the Prince Edward Island Provincial Park System comprising five classes of parks: nature preserves, natural environment parks, recreation parks, wayside/beach access, and historic parks. The parks system enhances the scenic drives which loop the coastal areas of the province.

Green Park is an historic park in a natural park setting at the junction of the Bedford and Trout rivers. It incorporates a shipbuilding centre consisting of the original home of James Yeo, a shipbuilder of the mid-1800s, a newly constructed interpretative centre and a shipbuilding site in the development stage. Strathgartney Park, a 40-acre tract of land on the Trans-Canada Highway between Charlottetown and Borden is an excellent picnic site and campground with its hardwood groves, fresh spring water and beautiful view over the West River and the surrounding country. Lord Selkirk Park, an area of 30 acres at Eldon, is of historic interest in that it contains an old French cemetery and marks the spot on the shoreline where Lord Selkirk landed. Brudenell River Park and Golf Course, comprising 1,285 acres at Roseneath, has a considerable area of woodland and runs to the shore of the Brudenell River. Jacques Cartier Park, an area of 23 acres at Kildare Beach four miles from Alberton, is of historic significance as the place where Jacques Cartier first landed on Prince Edward Island. Cabot Park at Malpeque, named in honour of John Cabot, is a 300-acre area with sandy beaches and an interesting museum. Several small parks have been developed or are under development. A fee of \$4.50 plus tax is charged for serviced tent and trailer sites and \$3.50 plus tax for unserviced sites. The parks are maintained by the Department of the Environment and Tourism.

Nova Scotia. The provincial park system is administered by the Department of Lands and Forests and consists of 18 overnight campground parks, 46 day-use picnic park and roadside table sites and 16 day-use beach parks having a total acreage of 8,274. An additional 95 sites containing about 11,573 acres are held in reserve for future development. Campground parks are located near major highways throughout the province and are designed to provide overnight camping accommodations and usually contain a day-use picnic ground. They range in size from 65 to 1,200 acres and the number of campsites varies from 30 to 175. Basic facilities include potable water, vault toilets, picnic tables, and dumping stations; there are no hook-up services for trailers. Picnic parks are designed as roadside day-use rest areas and are located at 20- to 40-mile intervals along major highways other than on the controlled access routes. These parks range in size from less than one acre to more than 200 acres and are provided with basic facilities similar to those in campground parks. Day-use beach parks are designed to serve as recreational areas and are provided with picnic tables, potable water, vault toilets and change houses. Additional good quality beaches are being developed dependent upon demand and location. The overnight camping fee is \$2.50 per party per night and there are no vehicle entry permits or day-use fees. The provincial park system provides about 10% of the total number of campsites in the province with the national park system providing about 15% and the private sector the remaining 75%.